

According to the opinion and actions of the Christian community around us, instead of by the mind of Christ. You have the clearest confirmation of this in the laudatory judgments so often passed on Christian service within our observation. Let a man maintain a good reputation, conform to the observances of his church, and give the influence of his name and position and wealth to the cause of truth, and he will be honored and distinguished and in death pronounced faithful, confident that the judgment will be ratified by the unseen Master. *Faithful*, although his social integrity and church observance were never allied to any deep spiritual feeling; *faithful*, though what he gave to Christ was little compared with what he kept back for himself; *faithful*, though he expended little to bless the world compared with what he expended in personal and family indulgences; *faithful*, though he was never so eager in the service of Christ as in the pursuit of his own gain; *faithful*, though he never sacrificed apparently his pleasures or his ornaments or the smiles of men or suffered anything for the Master, whose universal law of service is, "If any man will be my disciple let him deny himself"; *faithful*, though he was never like those men in days of yore held up as patterns of service, as though Christ did not require from us the same kind or amount of service that He once demanded; as though He could be satisfied with a different and inferior service; but we know that Christ is unchangeable, and He has given but one law to all His servants. *The spirit and essence of His demands are the same for all time.*

3rd. *Good and faithful service has respect to the MANNER of service.* The shape or form which a service takes is a very important feature, because thereby we fulfil the particular and specific end of our being. Every man has his mission and his ministry; every life has its service. Each has his sphere in which to move and act, and no one can do the work of another. Nor can anyone with the Bible and providential arrangements open, be at a loss to know what line of action to pursue. The path open to one may be closed to another because he is not qualified to enter upon it. As in the universe of matter the atom has its place as well as the planet, or as in the universe of life the insect has its place as well as the seraph, so in the Christian